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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
1920 L STREET, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 · 202/293-4196

A 3275-2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 18, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 12 totaled an estimated 16.9 billion ton-miles, 6.7 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 2 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 31 billion ton-miles, 9.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 12 totaled 438,251 cars, 4.0 percent above 1979, and 18.9 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 5.6 percent in the South, and 7.2 percent in the West, but down 1.6 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 12 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 22,412 cars, or 27.7 percent, and grain posted a gain of 4,171 cars, or 16.4 percent. Nineteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 5 totaled 23,557 cars, down 3.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 41,394 trailers and/or containers, 1.0 percent higher than last year. Both weeks included the New Year's Day holiday.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 1/12/80.

	Loadings in Week ended January 12, 1980	Change from Corresponding Week 1979		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	29,550	I 4,171	16.4	D 1,334	4.3
Other farm products	4,834	I 640	15.3	I 1,279	36.0
Metallic ores	26,805	I 789	3.0	I 329	1.2
Coal	103,418	I 22,412	27.7	I 15,611	17.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,038	I 1,610	14.1	I 2,484	23.5
Nonmetallic minerals	14,284	I 839	6.2	D 165	1.1
Grain mill products	19,238	D 109	0.6	I 4,092	27.0
Food and kindred products	18,632	D 951	4.9	I 4,176	28.9
Primary forest products	20,502	D 125	0.6	I 3,241	18.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,618	D 788	7.6	I 3,491	57.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,709	I 367	1.8	I 1,928	10.3
Chemicals and allied products	29,374	I 808	2.8	I 2,643	9.9
Petroleum products	6,587	D 791	10.7	I 665	11.2
Stone, clay and glass products	15,845	D 385	2.4	I 2,247	16.5
Coke	6,041	D 1,022	14.5	I 533	9.7
Metals and products	16,796	D 1,028	5.8	I 1,142	7.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,851	D 9,157	35.2	I 7,436	79.0
Waste and scrap materials	13,783	D 46	0.3	I 4,634	50.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,343	D 164	1.6	I 3,131	43.4
All other carloads	41,753	I 42	0.1	I 11,894	39.8
LCL traffic	250	D 145	36.7	I 109	77.3
Total Cars Loaded	438,251	I 16,967	4.0	I 69,566	18.9
Corresponding week of 1979	421,284				

	1980	1979	% Change
Totals Cars Loaded (2 weeks)	806,936	757,194	I 6.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
Week ended January 5	14.4	12.7	I 13.1
Week ended January 12	16.9	15.8	I 6.7
2 weeks cumulative	31.3	28.5	I 9.5

AARt-011180